

APPROPRIATION, WATERTOWN ARSENAL.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR
SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR WATER-
TOWN ARSENAL.

JANUARY 13, 1902.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 10, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of War of the 7th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for the Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Mass., for completing barracks for enlisted men, \$7,500.

Respectfully,

L. J. GAGE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 7, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith for transmission to Congress estimate (\$7,500) of appropriation "Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Mass.," required by the War Department for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903.

Very respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of War.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, by the Ordnance Department, United States Army.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

ARSENALS.

Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Mass.—

For completing barracks for enlisted men (act Mar. 3, 1901, vol. 31, p. 1165, sec. 1) \$7,500.00
 Amount appropriated for the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1902. 30,000.00

NOTE.—The following letter explains the necessity for this appropriation, viz:

WATERTOWN ARSENAL,
 Watertown, Mass., December 28, 1901.

The CHIEF OF ORDNANCE, UNITED STATES ARMY,
 Washington, D. C.

SIR: Referring to the recent proposals for the erection of the necessary barracks at this arsenal, for which the sum of \$30,000 was appropriated by the last Congress, I have the honor to call attention to the fact that the lowest bid received for the erection of the complete building exceeds the available appropriation by \$5,972.

That the original estimate thus falls short of the probable cost is not the fault of the Ordnance Department. When this estimate was made and the complete plans and specifications were prepared, the contract price of four barrack buildings of similar design at Fort Hancock, N. J., was known to have averaged about \$20,000 each, and after making every allowance for the greater expense attending the erection of a single and separate building in a different locality, there was no doubt that under other equally favorable conditions the desired building could be completed within the amount available.

But the barracks at Fort Hancock were erected three years ago, since which time there has been a material advance in the cost of labor and material, and we are furthermore informed that the contractor for the Fort Hancock buildings lost considerable money, and that those buildings were completed under forfeiture. Important changes, based upon an inspection of the Fort Hancock barracks, have added about \$1,500 to the assumed cost; and a necessary margin for a fair profit, the increased cost of labor and material before mentioned, and the change of locality will account for bids exceeding the amount appropriated (\$30,000). The following bids were received for the complete building, including plumbing, heating, and lighting:

Chas. H. Dodge Construction Company	\$35,972
S. J. Kelley	35,991
H. F. Ross Company	36,223
Chas. E. Currier	39,700
M. S. and G. N. Miller	43,185

An additional appropriation of \$7,500 is therefore urgently recommended for the erection of a building of suitable character, substantially built of good material—and therefore most economical—and possessing the hygienic qualities essential to housing one company of soldiers. The total thus available will thus be \$1,500 over the lowest bid, and amount to \$500 per man, or 42 cents per month for fifty years, exclusive of repairs.

An estimate of the cost of erecting this building by daily labor on the basis of eight hours for a day's work must include the preparation of a number of contracts for material and for the plumbing, heating, lighting, and roofing, and at the present time will foot up as follows, material and labor, complete:

Excavation, 1,450 cubic yards, and grading	\$820
Stone, footing, foundations, underpinning	1,250
Brick walls and piers, exterior and interior	5,370
Plastering and metal ceilings	1,575
Cement and asphalt basement, etc.	850
Lumber, floors, roof, and exterior and interior finish	12,600
Roofing, guttering etc., slate, tin, copper	1,760
Doors and windows, stone sills, and sash, complete	2,480
Painting and treating natural wood	650
Heating and ventilation, complete	3,000
Plumbing and gas fitting, lowest bid	1,980

32,335

The construction of a building of this character can not be prosecuted to advantage by the arsenal force augmented by temporary day workmen. In work of this nature, and where the modern appliances for such work are not available, the limitation of a day's work to eight hours may be said to increase the cost of construction about 20 to 25 per cent, and estimates can never be exact. The nature of this work and the demands upon our limited machinery and shop room for other purposes render it undesirable to undertake the erection and completion of the new barracks by day labor and monthly payments on an extended pay roll. (*John G. Butler, Lieut. Col., Ord. Dept., U. S. A., commanding.*)

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